



00684.003179.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Masami TSUKAMOTO

Application No.: 09/829,915

Filed: April 11, 2001

For: CONTAMINATION PREVENTION
IN OPTICAL SYSTEM

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Examiner: K. Brown

Group Art Unit: 2877

Allowed: June 4, 2003

Confirmation No.: 8192

September 4, 2003

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to further examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application

as follows: